



Common idioms and sayings

Animals

A bird in the hand: What you have is better than what you might get

Barking up the wrong tree: Pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action

Curiosity killed the cat: Being too curious can lead to trouble.

Don't put the cart before the horse: Do things in the proper order.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch: Don't assume success before it happens

Every dog has its day: Everyone gets a chance to be successful

Hold your horses: Be patient

It's raining cats and dogs: It is raining very heavily

Kill two birds with one stone: Achieve two things at once

Let sleeping dogs lie: Avoid bringing up past issues that could cause trouble.

Let the cat out of the bag: Reveal a secret

Like a fish out of water: Feeling out of place

Once bitten, twice shy: Cautious after a bad experience

The early bird gets the worm: The first to act gets the advantage.

The elephant in the room: An obvious problem no one talks about

When pigs fly: Something that will never happen

Body

Give someone the cold shoulder: Ignore someone deliberately

Food

A tough nut to crack: A difficult problem to solve

An apple a day: Eating healthy keeps you well



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Butter someone up: Flatter someone to gain favour

Cry over spilled milk: Complaining about something that cannot be changed

Piece of cake: Something very easy

Put all your eggs in one basket: Risk everything on one venture

Spill the beans: Reveal a secret

Take it with a grain of salt: Don't take it too seriously

The icing on the cake: Something that makes a good situation even better

Too many cooks spoil the broth: Too many people involved can ruin something

Walking on eggshells: Being very cautious

You can't have your cake and eat it too: You can't have it both ways

Money

A dime a dozen: Very common

A penny for your thoughts: An invitation to share your thoughts or ideas

Costs an arm and a leg: Something very expensive

Money doesn't grow on trees: Money is not easy to obtain

Time is money: Time is valuable

To break the bank: To spend all your money

Nature & body

Back on your feet: Recovered after an illness or difficulty

Bite off more than you can chew: Take on more responsibility than you can manage.

Born with a silver spoon: Born into privilege

Get off on the wrong foot: To make a bad start in a relationship or situation

Keep your chin up: Stay positive



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Once in a blue moon: Very rarely

Over the moon: Extremely happy

Pulling your weight: Doing your fair share of work

Reap what you sow: You get what you deserve

See eye to eye: To agree on something

Throw caution to the wind: Act recklessly

Turn a blind eye: Ignore something wrong

Up in the air: Uncertain or undecided

Water under the bridge: Past issues that are no longer important

Other

A blessing in disguise: Something good that seemed bad at first

A picture is worth a thousand words: Visuals are more descriptive than words.

Bite the bullet: To endure a painful situation bravely

Break the ice: To start a conversation in a social situation

Burn bridges: Destroy relationships or opportunities

Burn the candle at both ends: Overwork yourself by doing too much.

Burning the midnight oil: Working late into the night

Call it a day: Stop working for the day

Caught red-handed: Caught in the act of doing something wrong

Cut to the chase: Get to the point

Devil's advocate: Someone who argues against something to test the argument

Easy does it: Be careful and proceed slowly

Fit as a fiddle: Very healthy and strong



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Go down in flames: Fail spectacularly

Hang in there: Keep going despite difficulties

Hit the jackpot: Achieve huge success suddenly

Hitting the books: Studying

Ignorance is bliss: Not knowing something can bring happiness

In high spirits: Feeling cheerful

In the red: Being in debt

Jump on the bandwagon: Follow a trend

Look before you leap: Think before you act

Make a killing: To make a lot of money quickly

No pain, no gain: Effort is necessary to achieve success

Out of shape: Not physically fit

Out of the blue: Unexpectedly

Strike gold: To find great success

The luck of the draw: Based on chance

Throw in the towel: Give up

Wipe the slate clean: Start fresh

Your guess is as good as mine: I don't know either

Sports

Hit the ground running: Start something successfully and with enthusiasm.

The ball is in your court: It's your turn to make a decision

The ball is rolling: Things have been set in motion.



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Time

Around the clock: All day and all night

Beat the clock: Complete something before a deadline

In the nick of time: Just in time

Time flies: Time passes quickly

Tools

Bury the hatchet: To make peace

Climbing the ladder: Moving up in your career

Cut corners: Do something in the easiest or cheapest way

Hit the nail on the head: To describe or do something exactly right

Under the knife: Undergoing surgery

Travel

At a crossroads: At an important decision point

Go the extra mile: Make extra effort

Hit the road: Start a journey

Miss the boat: Miss an opportunity

Off the beaten track: Unfamiliar or unusual place

Put the brakes on: Slow down or stop progress

Throw someone under the bus: To betray someone for personal gain

Weather

A storm in a teacup: Making a big deal out of a small issue

Chasing rainbows: Pursuing unrealistic goals

Every cloud has a silver lining: There is something good in every bad situation



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On cloud nine: Very happy or excited

The calm before the storm: A period of quiet before chaos or difficulties begin.

Under the weather: Feeling unwell